Beat: Sports

DANIKA PATRICK LOSING GoDADDY SPONSORSHIP IN 2016

POPULAR DRIVER LEFT WITH UNCERTAINTY

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USPA NEWS - GoDaddy, the Sprint Cup driver's long-time primary sponsor and benefactor announced Wednesday that it will not return to NASCAR after this season, leaving one of the sport's most popular drivers and most recognized names without full-time funding as she seeks a new contract with Stewart-Haas Racing.

Patrick, 33, is in the final year of her three-year contract at SHR after transitioning through the Xfinity Series from IndyCar. Both Patrick and SHR officials have expressed hope she will return in 2016 to the four-car organization, which is co-owned by driver Tony Stewart and Gene Haas and also fields cars for three-time Cup champion Stewart, reigning champion Kevin Harvick and 2004 titlist Kurt Busch.

Patrick called GoDaddy an "incredible partner" and said she hoped to continue the relationship.

The move comes as GoDaddy, a global online domain registrar serving more than 13 million customers in 37 countries, shifts focus toward small business and international markets. It has been at least an associate sponsor of Patrick since 2007 and became her main backer in the 2010 IndyCar season at Andretti Autosport.

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